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STATE OF LOUISIANA

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

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November 1, 2005

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Mr. Kevin Martin, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

NOV 28 2005

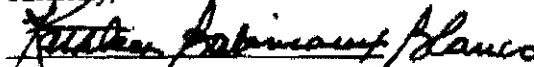
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

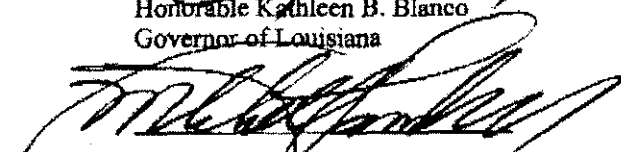
Dear Chairman Martin:

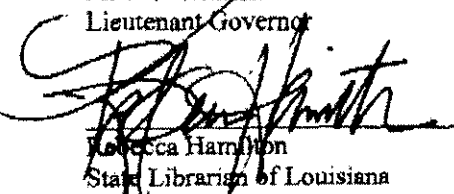
The state of Louisiana appreciates the assistance and special considerations afforded to E-rate applicants affected by Hurricane Katrina. Because of the economic impact of two major hurricanes hitting our state within three weeks of each other, our schools and libraries are facing major difficulty in restoring networks. We respectfully request relief for the Hurricane Rita-affected schools and libraries in our state. We also request relief under the low income and rural healthcare programs in our state be extended to those affected by Hurricane Rita. We understand that the FCC likely wishes to avoid the precedent of responding to every natural disaster. However, the combined impact of the storms has put our state under extreme financial stress and has made it difficult for us to respond.


In addition to the relief requested for Hurricane Rita-affected entities, we join the state of Mississippi in respectfully requesting that the FCC extend the opportunity for schools and libraries directly affected by Hurricane Katrina (and, in Louisiana, Hurricane Rita as well) to file requests for funding in funding year 2006. The tight deadlines in FCC Order 05-178 and the looming 2006 filing window have made it almost impossible for affected schools and libraries to meaningfully take advantage of the special relief.


Sincerely,

  
Honorable Kathleen B. Blanco  
Governor of Louisiana

  
Mitchell Landrieu  
Lieutenant Governor

  
Rebecca Hamilton  
State Librarian of Louisiana

  
Cecil J. Picard  
State Superintendent of Education

  
Angele Davis, Secretary  
Department of Culture, Recreation and  
Tourism

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